

AGENDA: August 19, 2003

4.15

CATEGORY: Consent

DEPT.: Public Works

TITLE: Support of SB 1097, the CalFed Bay-Delta Authorization Act

RECOMMENDATION

Authorize the Mayor to send letters of support to U.S. Senators Boxer and Feinstein for SB 1097, the CalFed Bay-Delta Authorization Act.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no direct fiscal impact associated with this recommendation.

BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS

The Bay-Delta project supplies water to 22 million residents, California's multibillion-dollar agricultural industry and 80 percent of the State's commercial salmon fisheries. A map of the Bay-Delta region is included as Attachment 1.

To address concerns about California water demand, water supply and quality, State and Federal agencies joined together to create the CalFed Bay-Delta task force by signing the Bay-Delta accord in 1994. The framework of the agreement covers four primary areas: ecosystem recovery, water supply reliability, water quality and levee system integrity. The Mountain View City Council has previously supported the CalFed program objectives. In 1998 and 1999, in coordination with the SCVWD, other cities and business interests, the City Council authorized then-Mayor Zoglin to sign a collective position on CalFed initiatives.

The CalFed task force has developed a 30-year strategy to address these issues and has funded a number of smaller projects, including planning studies, water treatment improvements and some levee system enhancements. A list of all the projects planned by the CalFed program is included in Attachment 2.

Funding is not available for larger, more ambitious projects, such as habitat restoration, water recycling and water storage expansion. To secure funding, Senators Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer introduced SB 1097 at the end of May 2003, the CalFed Bay-Delta Authorization Act, to appropriate \$850 million over the next four years to the CalFed program. The categories earmarked for funding by SB 1097 are:

- Water storage (\$102 million).
- Water conveyance (\$77 million).
- Water use efficiency (\$153 million).
- Water transfers (\$3 million).
- Environmental water account (\$75 million).
- Integrated regional water management plans (\$95 million).
- Ecosystem restoration (\$100 million).
- Watersheds (\$50 million).
- Water quality (\$50 million).
- Levee system stability (\$70 million).
- Science (\$50 million).
- Program management (\$25 million).

Although Mountain View does not receive water directly from the Bay-Delta, 10 percent of Mountain View's water is purchased from the Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD). One of the SCVWD's sources is the Bay-Delta via the South Bay Aqueduct. Improvements to the Bay-Delta will ensure a continued supply of this water with improved quality.

The Bay Area Water Supply and Conservation Agency (BAWSCA), of which Mountain View is a member, may also look to the Bay-Delta or the SCVWD for additional future water supply needs if the Hetch-Hetchy system cannot meet our water supply demands.

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The SCVWD supports this bill and is encouraging local agencies who acquire water from SCVWD to offer support. No other support or opposition is currently on record. A copy of SB 1097 is included as Attachment 3.

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PUBLIC NOTICING—Agenda posting.

Prepared by:

Peter Skinner
Senior Administrative Analyst

Reviewed by:

Joan Jenkins
Transportation and Policy Manager

PS/9/CAM
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Attachments: 1. Bay-Delta Map
2. CalFed Projects
3. SB 1097

cc: TPM, F/c

Approved by:

Cathy R. Lazarus
Public Works Director

Kevin C. Duggan
City Manager